



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

MAY 17 2014

Dear Requester,

RE: Administrative records for case number F-2011-06987

This is in response to your request dated April 25, 2014. We have assigned Case Control Number F-2014-07548 and will begin the processing of your request based upon the information provided in your communication.

The cut-off date is the date the search is initiated unless you have provided a specific timeframe.

Unusual circumstances (including the number and location of Department components involved in responding to your request, the volume of requested records, etc.) may arise that would require additional time to process your request.

We will notify you as soon as responsive material has been retrieved and reviewed.

Should you have any questions, you may call our FOIA Requester Service Center at (202) 261-8484 or send an email to FOIAstatus@state.gov. Please refer to the Case Control Number in any communication.

Sincerely,

Requester Communications Branch
Office of Information Programs & Services

Expedited Processing

Our published regulations regarding expedition, 22 C.F.R. § 171.12(b), require a specific showing of a compelling need. **Expedited processing is granted only in the following situations: (1) imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual; (2) urgently needed by an individual primarily engaged in disseminating information in order to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal Government activity and the information is urgently needed in that a particular value of the information would be lost if not disseminated quickly; (3) substantial humanitarian reasons; or (4) loss of substantial due process rights.** Your request does not meet any of the established criteria. Regrettably, I must advise that you have not provided adequate justification for expedition. However, you may be assured that we will make every effort to process your request in as timely a manner as possible. For your convenience, I have enclosed a copy of the Department's expedited processing criteria.

If you wish to appeal this decision, you may write to:

Requester Liaison Division
Office of Information Programs and Services
U.S. Department of State, SA-2
Washington, DC 20522-8100

Your appeal should address the points listed in the enclosed sheet titled "Expedition Processing Information Sheet." Your appeal must be sent to us within 30 days from the date that you receive this letter.

Expeditious Processing Information Sheet

Expedited processing shall be granted to a requester after the requester requests such and demonstrates a compelling need for the information. A compelling need is deemed to exist where the requester can demonstrate one of the following:

1. **A Compelling Need** means that the failure to obtain the records on an expedited basis could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual.
2. **A Compelling Need** means that the information is urgently needed by an individual primarily engaged in disseminating information in order to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal Government activity. An individual primarily engaged in disseminating information to the public. Representatives of the news media would normally qualify; however, other persons must demonstrate that their primary activity involves publishing or otherwise disseminating information to the public, not just to a particular segment or group.
 - (a) **Urgently Needed** means that the information has a particular value that will be lost if not disseminated quickly. Ordinarily this means a breaking news story of historical interest only, or information sought for litigation or commercial activities would not qualify nor would a news media publication or broadcast deadline unrelated to the news breaking nature of the information.
 - (b) **Actual or Alleged Federal Government Activity.** The information concerns some actions taken, contemplated, or alleged by or about the Government of the United States, or one of its components or agencies, including the Congress.
3. **Substantial Due Process** rights of the requester would be impaired by the failure to process immediately; or
4. **Substantial Humanitarian** concerns would be harmed by the failure to process immediately.

A demonstration of compelling need by a requester shall be made by a statement certified by the requester to be true and correct to the best of their knowledge.

Fee Waiver

We have considered your request for a fee waiver. Based upon the information provided in your letter, your request for a fee waiver has been denied. If you wish to appeal this decision, you may write to:

Requester Liaison Division
Office of Information Programs and Services
U.S. Department of State, SA-2
Washington, DC 20522-8100

Your appeal should address the points listed in the enclosed sheet titled "Fee Waiver Information Sheet." Your appeal must be sent to us within 30 days from the date that you receive this letter.

Fee Waiver Information Sheet

It is the Department's policy to treat each request for a fee waiver on a case-by-case basis. Please provide the following information:

1. State why you believe the subject matter of your request concerns the operations or activities of the Federal Government.
2. Expand on your ability and intent to disseminate the information requested. E.g., have you published or disseminated information in this or related fields in the past? Is the information requested to be used in a specific article or paper currently being prepared? Are the documents going to be posted on a website? If so, please explain.
3. Describe any commercial interest which would be furthered by the disclosure of the requested information, e.g., will you be paid for the publication or dissemination of the requested information? If so, how much will you be paid and in what manner will you receive payment? Will you receive any other type of commercial benefit due to your dissemination of the requested information? A "commercial interest" is one that furthers a commercial, trade, or profit interest as those terms are commonly understood.
4. If your request for a fee waiver is not granted, we need your written assurance that you are willing to pay the fees associated with the processing of your request. You may set a limit on the amount you are willing to pay.

Please send this information to: Office of Information Programs and Services, A/GIS/IPS/RL, Room 8100, Department of State, 515 22nd Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20522-8100. Please refer to your request number in your correspondence to us.

Fees: The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) provides that agencies may assess fees to recover the direct costs of processing requests, unless a fee waiver has been granted.

According to our regulations, by making a FOIA request, you have agreed to pay all applicable fees up to \$25 unless a fee waiver has been granted. You may specify a willingness to pay a greater amount. If the estimated fees exceed this limit, you will be notified.

_____ You have stated your willingness to pay the fees incurred in the processing of this request up to \$_____.

☒ Please let us know if you are willing to pay the fees that will be incurred in the processing of your request. You may set a limit of the maximum amount that you wish to pay. Please be advised that, without an agreement to pay fees, your request will be processed without cost up to the required first 2 hours of search time (for all other requester category only) and duplication of the first 100 pages (for all other, media, educational and non-commercial scientific requester categories). **Please do not send payment in advance. If there are fees incurred in the processing of your request, you will be notified of the amount owed in separate correspondence.**

Based upon the information that you have provided, we have placed you in the requester category checked below. This request will be processed in accordance with the fee schedule designated for that category (see 22 C.F.R. 171, enclosed).

_____ **Commercial Use Requesters** – Charges may be assessed that recover the full direct costs of searching for, reviewing for release, and duplicating the record(s) sought.

_____ **Educational Institution Requesters** – Charges may be assessed that recover the cost of duplicating the record(s) sought only, after the first 100 pages of duplication.

_____ **Non-commercial Scientific Institution Requesters** – Charges may be assessed that recover the cost of duplicating the record(s) sought only, after the first 100 pages of duplication.

_____ **Representatives of the News Media** – Charges may be assessed that recover the cost of duplicating the record(s) sought only, after the first 100 pages of duplication.

☒ **All Other Requesters** – Charges may be assessed that recover the full reasonable direct cost of searching for and duplicating the record(s) sought, after the first 100 pages of duplication, and the first two hours of search time.

☒ You have indicated your inclusion in a category different than the one indicated above. Please forward the information requested on the enclosed sheet titled “Requester Categories” to substantiate your inclusion in a particular category of requester.

We will notify you of the costs incurred in processing your request as soon as the search for, and review of, any responsive documents have been completed.

REQUESTER CATEGORIES

If you believe that you should NOT be considered a commercial use requester, please provide:

Evidence that your use of the requested information will NOT further any commercial, trade, or profit interest of yourself or the person(s) on whose behalf the request is made.

If you believe that you should be considered an educational or non-commercial scientific institution requester, please provide:

A statement, signed by the chairperson of your department, which indicates that your request is authorized by and under the auspices of a specific institution and that the requested records are not sought for a commercial use and are not intended to promote any particular product or industry, but are sought in furtherance of scholarly or scientific research.

If you believe that you should be considered a representative of the news media, please provide:

Evidence that you are employed by an entity that is organized and operated to publish or broadcast news to the public.

Evidence, if you are associated with a periodical publication such as a newsletter, that your product is available for purchase or subscription by the general public.

Evidence, if you are a freelance journalist, of the likelihood of publication through the news media (e.g., a publication contract, examples of past publications, etc.).

Evidence that the information you request is about current events or would be of current interest to the public.